

often make a wretched mess of the management of their own and other people's affairs. Theoretically, if every factor that contributes to a result is perfect, the result will be perfect; but practically, for want of time, strength, and opportunity, the efficient man is compelled to neglect some things for the sake of others, and in order to do this and yet secure the main end he has to discriminate between the essential and the non-essential. The one who is thoroughly imbued with the false doctrine of the importance of little things spends his strength without discrimination, and usually succeeds in missing the main chance.—*The Watchman*.

Wanted—A Girl

Youth's Companion.

Yes, wanted, a girl!—a daughter, in thousands of homes, bright, smiling, helpful, always ready to hold the baby, set the table or sweep the floor, and to do these things so happily and cheerfully and well, that the baby will crow, the table will look like a well-balanced picture, and careful, critical grandmother will find no dust under the chairs or in the corners of the room. Wanted!—a loving daughter, the touch of whose caressing fingers brings a happy light to the weary eyes of father or mother, the sound of whose cheery and mellow laughter is a joy to the whole household.

Where is there a home in which such a daughter is not wanted? Does any one know such a girl? There is a situation open for her. She is advertised for, sought for; she can have any place she wants; the world is hers, but why are there not more applicants? Ah, she is already occupied; she has a home which cannot give her up; she is enshrined in the hearts of father and mother; her brothers have bound her about with the cords of love, and will not let her go.

Those are sorrowing homes where she is not, for they have a lack which is hard to fill. Blessed be the daughter of the household! God comfort the home that has her not!

Sisters' Society C. E.

Ashland, Ohio

There has as yet nothing come in for this week's S. S. C. E. department, but we can not afford to allow that to silence our column for even a week. So while we have no S. S. C. E. news or original matter of any kind, I believe we'll all enjoy reading the selection from J. R. Miller's beautiful writings. More of true greatness is found among those living a quiet, gentle life, as he speaks of it, than among those in active service or public life. It requires more Christian grace and patience to wait and endure, to endure and wait, than to do the act, however difficult and great the work may be. The "gentle life" applies to many of you, my sisters, and will you not allow that thought to lift you to a still higher realm of kindness and usefulness?

Let us seek to fill with daily toil, the quiet avenues of life that are opening up to every earnest hearted woman. One of these avenues is our page in EVANGELIST which is always open to receive and carry silent messages of cheer, comfort or admonition. Let us labor together in his love.

VIANNA DETWILER.

THE FRAGRANCE OF A GENTLE LIFE

Once in crossing a meadow I came to a spot that was filled with fragrance. Yet I could see no flowers, and I wondered whence the fragrance came. At last I found, low down, close to the ground, hidden by the tall grass, innumerable little flowers. It was from these that the fragrance came.

I enter some homes. There is a rich perfume of love that pervades all the place. It may be a home of wealth and luxury, or it may be plain and bare. No matter; it is not the house, nor the furniture, nor the adornment that makes this air of sweetness. I look closely. It is a gentle woman, mother or daughter, quiet, hiding self away, from whose life the fragrance flows. There is a wondrous charm in a gentle spirit. The gentle girl in a home may not be beautiful, may not be well-educated, may not be musical or an artist or "clever" in any way; but wherever she moves, she leaves a benediction. Her sweet patience is never disturbed by sharp words that fall about her. The children love her because she never tires of them. She helps them with their lessons, listens to their frets and worries, mends their broken toys, makes dolls' dresses, straightens out the tangles and settles their little quarrels, and finds time to play with them. When there is sickness in the home, she is the angel of comfort. Her face is always bright with the outshining of love. Her voice has music in it as it falls in cheerful tenderness on the sufferer's ear. Her hands are wondrously gentle as their soothing touch rests on the aching head, or as they minister in countless ways about the bed of pain.

"The lives that make the world so sweet
Are shy, and hide like the humble flowers.
We pass them by with our careless feet,
Nor dream 'tis their fragrance fills the bower,
And cheers and comforts us, hour by hour"

Our Young People

OUR ETERNAL DESTINY—Matt. 13:47-50

Topic, June 24.

The Bible is not a book revealing the secrets of the future but a book with help for the duties of this life. It teaches us not to be concerned about "the times and seasons which the Father hath put in his own hand" but to "walk in the light while ye have the light" and to "work while it is called today for the night cometh when no man can work."

We are not therefore to regard this world as a "wilderness of woe" from which we are to turn our eyes to "Canaan's fair and happy land" and long for the harp and crown awaiting us there. That is an old and well-established conception, but it is neither Christian in spirit nor Biblical in its basis.

It is well that we study this topic for it will help us to understand more fully our "high calling in Christ Jesus."

SCRIPTURE LIGHT

1 All men have a chance at the highest destiny. God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34), but invites every human being to the fullest salvation. John 3:16; Rev. 22:17; Heb. 7:25.

QUESTION:—What possibilities do men have that brutes do not have?

Could we consign men to eternal fire without ever a chance for a different destiny? But is God more cruel than we are? Luke 11:13.

2 The nature of salvation. Can we perceive spiritual things by means of the five senses? I Cor. 2:14. Yet how can we describe them except by using such language as we have? Because there was no other way of conveying the idea, salvation is described as "crown of life" Jas. 1:12, "place prepared" John 14, city of gold, etc., etc. These figures are not to be taken literally at all. What are the truths back of them?

1 Salvation equals life eternal. I John 5:11, 12.

2 Life eternal equals right knowledge of God. John 17:3.

3 This knowledge of God we have through Christ. John 1:4; John 10:36; John 3:34-36.

4 Therefore by accepting him we become like him, hence God-like. This is our destiny. John 1:12; Rom. 8:29; I John 3:2; Matt. 5:48.

5 We are not to think of heaven, therefore, as a geographical place so much as a spiritual condition. Its joys are not sensual but spiritual. Rom. 14:17; Rom. 8:46; Luke 17:20, 21; Matt. 20:34-37; I Cor. 15:44, 49, 50, 53.

6 Our reward then is in the degree to which we measure up to our destiny. I Cor. 3:8, 14; Rev. 22:12; Matt. 20:23; Rom. 8:17.

7 Punishment is just the opposite. The sinner rejects God, loses knowledge of spiritual things and lives only the natural animal life. This is death—the wages of sin. Rom. 6:23. He is punished not so much for his sins as by them. II Pet. 2:12, 13; Rom. 1:28-32. Hell is represented figuratively in the Bible and in picture books. It cannot be pictured, but pictures may help to make vivid the awful condition of the soul alienated from God. Eph. 4:18, 19.

TOPICS FOR TALKS

1 The necessity of choice between two destinies. Matt. 7:13, 14.

2 Christ the only way to life eternal. John 14:6.

3 How destiny becomes fixed.

QUESTIONS

1 Shall we forever be growing one way or another?

2 How do we know what our destiny is?

3 How may we "work out" our destiny?

4 Does our "eternal destiny" begin now, or after death, or after the judgment? John 5:25.

5 Can any one prevent us from attaining to our destiny?

7 How can we help one another on to our destiny?

TO THE LEADER:—The line of thought in these notes may seem unusual and difficult, but it will pay to study all the scriptures given and be able to show their bearing on the topic. Add comments and questions of your own. Unless this is done many will fail to get the thought of the references.

C. F. YODER.

The Christian Life

PRAYER MEETING TOPIC

CITIES OF REFUGE

Lesson: Heb. 4.

1 Design of Ex. 21:13; Num. 35:11; Josh. 20:3.

2 Required to be easily reached, Deut. 19:3.

3 Open to all manslayers, Josh. 20:4.

4 Open to all strangers, Num. 35:51.

5 Those admitted to were first put on trial, Num. 35:12, 24.

6 They were not protected outside of, Num. 35:26, 27.

7 Could not go out of the city of refuge until the